

MINUTES OF THE PLASTICS RECYCLING TASK FORCE
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

August 21, 1989

Room 145

Task Force Members Present: Chair Corky Kirkpatrick, Carrie Heaton, Jerry Herrmann, Bill Martin and Jeff Gage

Others Present: Beth Hulsinan, Betty McArden, Sara Vickerman, [Alan] Allen Hurst and Steve Kraten

Chair Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

1. Report on Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Program for Sorting and Recycling of Roadside Litter

Chair Kirkpatrick had those present introduce themselves. She then introduced [Alan] Allen Hurst, District Litter Coordinator, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) who discussed their highway litter collection and recycling program in the metropolitan area. He said the operation employed [20] 39 people. He described the boundary of the collection area, and said it encompassed approximately 400 shoulder miles. He said litter had been reduced through enforcement in the public sector, although it was harder in the private sector. He said there were three road section crews before the state decided to combine the crews into one and put it under one supervisor. He said his position was the only district litter coordinator in the state. He read to those present parts of his job description.

Mr. Hurst said [their crew did work] they provide assistance at times [with] to groups outside of their district and/or program even if the area concerned was not a state right-of-way. He said their mission was to maintain highway cleanliness and safety to promote Oregon.

He said the program was funded through the Environmental Fund of 1976 from personalized license plates. He said the collection crew left orange bags filled with litter which state road crews picked up. He said before the recycling program began four months ago, all litter collected went to the landfill. He said he suggested to [Morey] Moury Paine, District Maintenance Supervisor, that roadside litter collected be recycled. He said the program's progress moved extremely fast after it was initiated. He said the program had limited funds. Mr. Hurst said the conveyor belts used to sort litter had been warehoused and he and his crew renovated and adapted them for this program. Mr. Hurst described the collection and sorting facility and gave a video presentation of the program's collection, facility and recycling.

[Mr. Hurst said if \$2 or 3 million more was approved for the program, they would get more mini-crews and could expand operations beyond the current radius.] Mr. Hurst [He] said the program recycled 12 to 15 different types of waste. He said they had barrels donated by [Wastech, Inc.,] Tektronix for sorting. He said the employees were teens who were referred by the

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Clackamas County Program, Employment [Business and] Training and Business Services. Mr. Hurst said they sorted film, styrene, hard plastics, metals, cans, bottles and various other types of litter. He said the non-recyclable tailings [would now] could be made into fuel cubes [for a company told by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) not to burn tires for fuel] and used in place of hog fuel. Betty McArden, Oregon Environmental Council, asked if the tailings could be composted. Mr. Hurst said it would be difficult because tailings included used diapers, clothing and other hard to compost wastes. He said all litter collected was low-grade waste except for aluminum and steel objects. Jerry Herrmann, John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center, pointed out compost from that type of waste had to be sorted.

Carrie Heaton, Clackamas County Plastics Coordinator, asked Mr. Hurst if they attempted to prosecute those who littered. Mr. Hurst said that was difficult to do, but said if mail was found in the litter with a name and address, it was possible to impose a fine. He said intentional littering was a Class [B] C [felony] misdemeanor.

Mr. Hurst discussed the future of the program. He said it was seasonal in nature, but really operated year-round. He listed the number of people and the hours they were employed at different times of the year. Mr. Hurst displayed a fuel cube made from litter tailings and other types of waste collected on the highway.

Those present asked Mr. Hurst if it were possible to break down different types of papers and styrene into percentages collected. Mr. Herrmann said with this type of collection it would be possible to trace the source of litter collected. Those present discussed the composition of litter collected further. Sara Vickerman, Defenders of Wildlife, asked if there were studies which showed why people littered. Mr. Hurst said there were two types of litter, intentional and unintentional. He said Oregon litter laws were not stringent enough and therefore difficult to enforce. He said California's fine for littering was \$1,000 as opposed to Oregon's fine of [\$100] \$500.

Chair Kirkpatrick said the Task Force could investigate Oregon's litter problem and what could be done to alleviate it. Ms. Vickerman said there was a great deal of litter on county roads as opposed to state highways. Mr. Hurst said the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and various state agencies had cooperated fully and offered assistance in enforcement. He said some commercial trucks did not completely secure their tarps which created litter.

Chair Kirkpatrick noted the program was the first of its kind and had national implications. Chair Kirkpatrick thanked Mr. Hurst for his presentation. Chair Kirkpatrick deferred Agenda Item Nos. 2 and 3.

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Mr. Herrmann asked if a discussion item on McDonald's in-house plastics recycling program could be scheduled at a future meeting. Jeff Gage, Gage Industries, asked about four plastics recycling proposals approved by Metro's One Percent for Recycling Committee. He expressed surprise the Task Force was not consulted about the proposals considered and approved. Chair Kirkpatrick said a member of the One Percent for Recycling Committee could come to a Task Force meeting and explain the four plastics proposals.

2. Standards for Plastics Collection

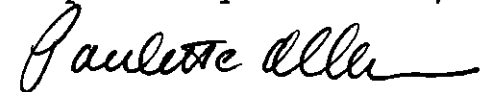
Deferred.

3. Interim Legislative Committee Issues

Deferred.

Chair Kirkpatrick adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paulette Allen
Committee Clerk
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